

二、ハジ

14

「おや、おや」

「う」

「おや、おや」

「おや、おや」

「おや、おや」

「おや、おや」

「おや、おや」

「おや、おや」



SHUN-KUN.

YEAH?

SHUN-KUN.

I SAID
WHAT?

WHAT IS IT,
CHIKA-CHAN?



CH. 14 PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE

BUT WE'RE
MARRIED NOW,
SO IT'D BE
WEIRD TO CALL
YOU AGAY-AGAY.

IT'S
NOTHING.

I JUST
SOMETIMES
FEEL LIKE
I'M GONNA
STILL SAY
AGAY-AGAY.

SO
WHAT IF
YOU DO?

YEAH.

SO YOU
SHOULD STICK
WITH SHIN.

WHAT?

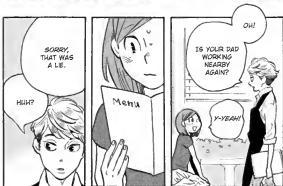
TOO
EMBARRA-
SSING?

IT IS!
IT'S TOO
EMBARRA-
SSING!

















**YOU NEVER
MAKE ANY
SUGGESTIONS
OR SAY NO
OR SAY YOU
DON'T CARE!**



**HOW COME YOU
ALWAYS JUST
SAY "SURE" TO
WHATEVER
I SAY!?**

IF YOU'RE NOT
INTERESTED
IN ME THEN
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO FORCE
YOURSELF TO
GO OUT WITH
ME!

HUH?

I...

LOOK, LOOK!
I'M SORRY! OKAY?
SORRY! SORRY!

UHUUH
...

WILL
YOU

MARRY
ME!?





"CHIKA,
YOU'RE SUCH
A CHILD..."

I'M ALSO
TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT

BUT...

AND
SOMETIMES
I THINK SO,
TOO.

THE REASON SUCH
A WONDERFUL GUY
LIKE AKAI-KUN'S
STILL SINGLE.







I COULDN'T
REALLY HATE
HIM, SO IT STUCK
WITH ME FOR
A LONG TIME.

BUT I GUESS
BECAUSE WE'D
KNOWN EACH
OTHER SO
LONG,



I STILL
THINK THAT
SOMETIMES.

YOU'RE
SUCH A
JERK FOR
LAUGHING!



YOU GUYS
WERE ALWAYS
TOGETHER, TOO,
RIGHT?



I SOMETIMES FIND
MYSELF THINKING
ABOUT HOW YOU
MUST HAVE LIKED
HER AT SOME POINT,
THE SUZUME-YU
BATH GIRL...



THERE ARE SO
MANY PHOTOS
OF THE THREE
OF YOU.





OH!

DON'T SAY
ANYTHING.



CHIKA-
CHAN.

...OH,
AND NOW I
CALLED YOU
AKAI-KUN
AGAIN.

YOU'RE SO COOL,
AKAI-KUN,
I'LL PROBABLY
ALWAYS BE
JEALOUS.



WHY?



I...

SOMETIMES
FEEL LIKE
A CRIMINAL.



YOU'RE
CUTE.

WHAT!?
WHY!?

MY FRIENDS
CALL ME
A LOLICON,
YOU KNOW.

'CAUSE I
SEDUCED SUCH
AN INNOCENT
YOUNG GIRL.

WHAT!?
'CAUSE I
MARRIED
YOU.

YEAH,
WELL....

NO WAY!?

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE
WE WERE DATING
WHEN I WAS TEN
OR ANYTHING,
THAT'S TERRIBLE!

BUT I WAS
TWENTY
WHEN I MET
YOU!

YEAH, BUT WHEN
I WAS TWENTY,
YOU WERE TEN.

I WAS AN
ADULT!

BUT THEY'RE
STUPID
SO THAT'S THE
SORT OF THING
THEY SAY.

MAYBE NOT.





IF I DIDN'T HAVE
ANY ULTERIOR
MOTIVE,
I SHOULD BE
ABLE TO SAY SO,
BUT I CAN'T.



I LET
SOU-CHAN
INTO THE
HOUSE,
NOT YOU.

THE THING
IS...

KAWADA-SAN,
KAWADA-SAN.

AND MAYBE I DID
HAVE A CRUSH
ON HIM FOR
TWENTY YEARS,
BUT STILL.

AFTER ALL,
SOU-CHAN JUST
CAME BY TO PICK
UP YU.

IT'S NOT LIKE OUR
RELATIONSHIP IS
SOMETHING
I CAN'T LET ANYONE
KNOW ABOUT.

BUT KAWADA-SAN
PROBABLY DOESN'T
WANT TO HEAR ANY
MORE ABOUT THE GUY
I HAD A CRUSH ON FOR
TWENTY YEARS.



AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY...

I JUST FEEL
SO GUILTY
ABOUT IT.



I STILL
LOVE HIM

EVEN
NOW.

I LOVE HIM.

I LOVE
SOU-CHAN.

I KNOW
I'M AN IDIOT.

OR EVEN
NEXT WEEK.

IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
TODAY.

UM...

OR NEXT
MONTH.

OR
NEXT YEAR,
EVEN.

BUT I'D LIKE
YOU TO COME
TO MY PLACE
SOMETIME.

KAWADA-SAN...



KAWADA-SAN
I, UM...

Waaaaah!

DON'T
SAY IT.



EVEN IF THINGS
DON'T WORK OUT
IN THE END.

I'D LIKE TO HAVE
A LITTLE MORE
TIME TO TRY.



WE ONLY
JUST GOT
STARTED.
I DON'T WANT
THIS TO END
JUST YET.

This
gimme
looks like
something
from
that Ramen
bros...



THEN I'LL
JUST GIVE
UP!

BUT
IF THAT STILL
DOESN'T
WORK OUT,



I KNEW
THERE'S
NO WAY

SHE'D BE
ABLE TO
RESIST
A SCENE
LIKE THAT.

I'M THE
WORST.

I TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF HER
GUILTY
CONSCIENCE.





HELLO?

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
PATRONAGE.

I'M JUST
POUTING 'CAUSE
I DON'T WANT
TO GIVE UP ON
THE GIRL I LIKE



IT'S BEEN
A LONG TIME
SINCE I WAS
AFRAID OF
GETTING
AN EMAIL OR
PHONE CALL.

YES
THAT'S FINE

I CAN SHOW
YOU AROUND
THIS
AFTERNOON.

"I'M SORRY,
I JUST CAN'T
DO THIS."







AND I CAN'T
HELP BUT BE
JEALOUS.

BUT

THERE'S
SO MANY
PEOPLE WHO
KNOW MORE
ABOUT HIM
THAN ME.

BACK IN
A BIT.

I REALLY AM
A CHILD.



CHIKA-CHAN.



...OH.

Squeeee
I want
to see
you, ♡

BY THE WAY,
YOU WANT
TO SEE YOU
TWO.



OH!

GETTING
SOME
CHANGE.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?



I'M GLAD I WORKED
UP THE COURAGE
TO SAY I LIKED HIM
THAT FIRST TIME.